

Appl. No. 09/756,899
Amdt. dated August 27, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition consisting of ~~comprising~~ a peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 that inhibits binding of free light chain of immunoglobulin (LC) to mast cells, wherein when the peptide is in the presence of an equimolar quantity of the free light chain of immunoglobulin in a solution, the free light chain of immunoglobulin's binding to said mast cells is reduced by at least 5% and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 2-9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a disease state in a subject, said disease state characterized by exhibiting:

i) a serum concentration of free light chain of immunoglobulin in serum of at least 8 ~~mg~~^{µg}/micrograms per liter;

ii) a spinal fluid concentration of free light kappa-chain of immunoglobulin of at least 70 ~~µg~~^{µg}/micrograms per liter; and/or or

iii) a spinal fluid concentration of free lambda-chain of immunoglobulin of at least 300 ~~µg~~^{µg}/micrograms per liter;

said pharmaceutical composition ~~comprising~~ consisting of a peptide of SEQ ID NO:1; wherein when the peptide is in the presence of an equimolar quantity of free light chain of immunoglobulin (LC), the peptide reduces the equimolar quantity of LC's binding to mast cells present in solution therewith by at least 5%, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 11-32 (Canceled)